



Big Sky News Monthly Newsletter



Month Feb | Year 2020 | Big Sky News

Announcement

Already 2 months into 2020! Are you looking forward to our State Festival? How about Nationals! This year held in Spokane the event will not be this close again. Right now over 2,094 people have signed up and 38 of them are from Montana. I'm one of them, will you be next?

Questions/comments/suggestions for the Big Sky News contact me at: David.Hinds@MontanaSquareDancing.com

Inside This Issue

Editor Commentary

Dave shares some thoughts

State Festival

Club reports

Billings

Great Falls

Hamilton

Helena

***Kalispell**

***Libby**

***Lolo**

***Miles City**

Plains

***=No Updates**

A note from the Editor

Yes, I am a few days late in sending out Feb's news but the good news is I was able to catch some last minute entries. Thanks to all the contributors for this edition.

We only have 3 months left before the Montana State Festival in Helena. I look forward to seeing you there.

Nationals this year in Spokane Washington. Are you going? We will not have Nationals this close for a number of years. I hope you can attend. Of course with Nationals being in the West there will not be a USA West this year.

Send your comments to
BSN@MontanaSquareDancing.com

David Hinds



Montana State Festival

We will continually have a space here for the Montana State Festival. Look for breaking news or any other great tidbits that the chair would like to share.



Get Ready!

The state festivals are probably one of the best dances you'll ever attend. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. Dance till your feet are numb and still go back for another day of dancing. Take advantage of the guest callers and cuers for the event and if your lucky be the Best Square on the floor! Do some unique dancing from outside, on a glacier, or maybe a downtown event and you might even earn that special badge letting everyone know that you survived"

*Check out the
Festival Registration Form
on the next page!*



Caller/Cuer - A

Washington native, Don has been fortunate to have traveled world-wide calling square dances. He has called in England, Australia, Mexico, Canada, The Caribbean, as well as

Donnie & Marie Wood

the United States. He became interested in calling as a young boy, when his club caller asked him to do a singing call at a club dance. Several Years later, while he was in the service, he and his wife started dancing in New Jersey and the calling attraction began again. Music had always been a large part of his life, as over the years Don had been playing and singing in several bands and in church choirs, so the transition to square dance caller seemed to be a natural progression. Recently Don and his wife Marie were awarded the Almond F. Parker award, Washington State's most prestigious award for a caller couple. Don calls Mainstream through C1 and is the club caller for 3 local clubs. The Lacey Daisy's and Capital Singles Square Dance Clubs of Olympia and the Praairie Steppers Square Dance Club in Centralia, WA. He is also co-owner and producer/recording artist for Lou-Mac Records, recording many popular square dance tunes.



Charlie & Kristi Robertson

Caller -- Charlie began his calling career at the ripe old age of 12 in Southern California. He mentioned to his mother that he wanted to learn how to call. Charlie's mom contacted a local square dance caller

and arranged lessons. Square Dancing and square dance calling soon became a huge part of Charlies life.

Over the Last 30 years Charlie has been privileged to travel the world calling dances. Charlie enjoys calling all levels from Basic through C1. He is known for his energetic style and creative choreography. Charlie has been a featured recording artist on several square dance record labels, for Lou-Mac Records, he recorded several songs that he is very proud of including the first and only true "Square Dance Rap" song. In 2008, Charlie realized a dream by joining several life long friends and becoming an owner and producer for Finetune and Goldwing Records.

In 2004, Charlie signed a recording contract with KMA Records in Nashville and completed his first CD. The CD includes all original country songs.

49th Annual Montana State Square & Round Dance

We will See You In 2020



East Helena, Montana
East Valley Middle School
400 Block of Kalispell Ave.
May 25-26-27-28, 2020

Registration Form Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Solo__ Couple__ Family__

Amount Enclosed _____

Make check payable to Last
Chance Squares
P.O. Box 616
East Helena, MT 59635

ALL EVENT PRICE

	Couple	Solo	Family
Pre May 1	\$60	\$30	\$70
Post May 1	\$80	\$40	\$90

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

Friday night	\$16	\$8	\$20
Mornings	\$16	\$8	\$20
Afternoons	\$16	\$8	\$20
Evenings	\$20	\$10	\$30
Monday morning	- Free		

Family consists of: Parents & Children

NO REFUNDS - After May 1

**Squares Dancers
Bring Your Club Banners**

Dry Camping at no Charge

Cannot be on School Grounds before
4:30 pm on Friday

Must Leave schools grounds by
noon on Monday

get on the
dance floor

Program Schedule

Friday-May 22

4:30 -RV Parking
5:30 - registration
8 to 10:30 pm - Trails In Dance
Mainstream & Rounds
All Callers/All Cuers

Saturday-May 23

9:00-10:30 am: Phase 2, 3, 4 Rounds
10:30-Noon: Mainstream
1:00-2:00 pm: Phase 3, 4, 5 Rounds
2:00-3:00 pm: Mainstream
3:00-4:00 pm: Plus
4:00-5:00 pm: "A" Level
7:00-7:30 pm: Pre-rounds
7:45 pm: Grand March
8:00-10:30 pm: Mainstream & Plus
9:00pm: Round Showcase
10:30 pm: 2021 After Party

Sunday-May 24

9:00-10:30am: Phase 2,3,4 Rounds
10:30-Noon: Mainstream
1:00-2:00pm Phase 3, 4, 5 Rounds
@:00-3:00pm: Mainstream
3:00-4:00pm: Plus
4:15-4:45 pm: State meeting
7:30-8:00pm Pre-Rounds
8:00-10:30pm Mainstream & Plus
9:00 pm: Round Showcase
10:30pm: Caller/Cuer after party

Monday- May 25

9:00-11:00 am : Trails Out Dance
All Callers/All Cuers
Mainstream & Rounds

*Dance
is the
hidden Language
of the Soul!*

-Martha Graham



Club Report

Yellowstone Square Dance Council – Billings

by Ann Hindley

A belated Happy New Year to everyone! Hope everyone's holidays were safe and merry! 2020 promises to be a great year for dancing. We're all happily anticipating the State Festival in Helena and the "close as it gets" National Convention in Spokane.

Cedar Hall was home to plenty of seasonal fun with 5 squares at both the Christmas dance on December 7 and the New Year's Eve dance on, of course, December 31. The Christmas dance was an all-callers dance so we enjoyed the talents of Lynn, Bob and Hunter. We felt spoiled for sure! We changed the New Year's dance this year, beginning with a potluck rather than finishing with a breakfast, and we celebrated the new decade on New York time. At both dances we welcomed visitors from Cody and Powell, WY as well as from Forsyth and Miles City and they appreciated being able to head for home a bit earlier on New Year's Eve. We were also happy to see some of our new dancers at the holiday festivities, too.

Saturday is usually Plus night, but on January 25 Cedar Hall will be dark so we can all take a road trip to Forsyth for the annual Plus Day. We look forward to this event every year; Lynn's calling is always enjoyable and they feed you very well there!



The next open dance scheduled at Cedar Hall is the Spring Dance with Lynn and Judy covering the calling and Larry and Susan on the rounds. It's all happening on March 24 from 2-4 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. The Checkerboard Squares' Beginner Hoedown is coming April 30 with Bob Hogemark. And mark your calendars for the Magic City Hoedown May 1 and 2 with Bill Henke and Larry and Susan Sperry.

If you're planning to be in the Billings area, be sure to check our website, squaredancemontana.com where you'll find listings for many dances throughout the state and elsewhere. Of course all the dancers in Billings are always happy to see visitors. Our newsletter, the Grapevine, is also on our website and lists all our dance schedules

Club Report Great Falls

by David Hinds

Dudes 'n' Dolls has moved to a new location. It has a beautiful wooden floor, a nice stage the for callers and cuers to work from, easy parking, heated and cooled environment! You can't ask for anything more.

Sons of Norway Hall
1314 7th St S
Great Falls, MT 59405

The calendar for February is as follows. (subject to change due to attendance and weather)

Feb 8th, Annual Sweetheart Dance featuring
Kathy Racine Bean
2-4 Plus
6pm Potluck
7:00 - 9:30pm, MS w/Plus tips announced

Feb 25th-Regular dance 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Lessons (set 2) started on 12 Jan

Feb 9th, Sunday evenings @ 4:00 - 6:00
Feb 16th, Sunday evenings @ 4:00 - 6:00
Feb 23rd, Sunday evenings @ 4:00 - 6:00

All dances are held at the Sons of Norway Hall,
1314 7th St. S.

Be sure to check out MontanaSquareDancing.com
website for the latest flyers and online schedule.

Any questions please call Joann @ 406-799-1071 or
George @ 406-799-1070

Happy New Year everyone!



Also,

If you have any questions regarding our club and dancing, please contact David at 406-799-1715 or by email at david.hinds@montanasquaredancing.com.

We would love to have you join our dances or workshops anytime.

Club Report Hamilton

by Dee Terrill Moenich

Boots & Calico Square Dance Club- Hamilton

We dance at the Golden Age Center, 5th & Baker streets in Hamilton. We have a nice wood floor and plenty of seating for spectators. Our Club caller is Ray Dunbar 370-4414

Feb calendar

Sat 1st: 6:00 - 7:00 continuing beginner class (helpers always welcome)

7:00 - 7:30 Plus

7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream dance with plus tip

Sat 8th: 6:00 - 7:00 continuing beginner class **SPECIAL CALLER EDDIE FIELDS**

7:00 - 7:30 Pre rounds

7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream dance with plus tip

Sat 15th Valentine theme **BLACK & WHITE FANCY DANCE. BRING NON PERISHABLE FOOD FOR HAVEN HOUSE PANTRY**

6:00 - 7:00 continuing beginner class

7:00 - 7:30 pre rounds

7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream dance with plus tip

Sat 22nd 6:00 - 7:00 continuing beginner class (helpers always welcome)

7:00 - 7:30 plus

7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream dance with plus tip

Sat 29th: 6:00 - 7:00 continuing beginner class

7:00 - 7:30 Plus

7:30 - 9:30 Mainstream with plus tip



Club Report

Helena

by Cathy Kaiser

We celebrated Christmas with an off-site party complete with a potluck, reindeer game, prizes, and gift exchange.

Club members are enjoying round dance lessons on Monday evenings prior to square dancing. If you are in town, please come join us.

Our February dance schedule:

Location: Broadwater Elementary School

Mondays: 6:30 pm round dance lessons

7:45 pm square dance (main stream & plus tips)

February 15 & 29: Club Dance

6:30 pm prerounds

7:00 pm square dance

Helena Last Chance Squares are currently teaching beginning round dancing to current members and additional people wanting to learn.

We have two special dances coming up in March and April. Please see attached flyers and plan to join us for loads of fun!

Please don't forget to register for the state square dance festival in Helena this May! Early registration ends May 1st. After that date an increased cost will apply. Hope to see you in a square at our capital city!

As always, our dances are Monday evenings at 630-9 and every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 630-930 at Broadwater Elementary Gym. Please join us if you're in town!

We look forward to seeing you across the square!



Hey take a look at our flyers on www.MontanaSquareDancing.com You don't want to miss our special dances.

Club Report Kalispell

by Roger Jones

No input for Feb 2020



Club Report Libby

by Jo Wilson

No input for Feb 2020



Club Report Miles City

by Lynn Strobel

No input for Feb 2020



Lynn and Judy Strobel

Prairie Stars

406-234-7384 406-951-1088

strobell@midrivers.com

<http://lynnstrobel.tripod.com>

Club Report Lolo

by Debby Ernst



No input for Feb 2020

Club Report Plains

by Darlene Jolly

The “**MONTANA MAVERICKS**” January 2020 dance enjoyed 22 dancers including 6 guests. 4 of those were our loyal Kalispell friends & 2 were from Hoodoo Valley club in north Idaho.

Adam Christman called & cued the dance as Lorrie was scheduled to have knee surgery 4 days later & had been off pain meds for 5 days so was unable to make the long drive to cue for us. On surgery day, they rescheduled it for the 22nd (2 weeks) & said she had not needed to be off pain meds at all. Very frustrating after she spent a very tough week!!

Our 3 students attended the dance & did very well. Michael Murray, club member, will be our teacher until Lorrie is able to make that nearly 200 mile trip to teach for us. He is an actor, so not bothered by doing the teaching. We appreciate his stepping up to do that for our club.

Our February dance will be during Lorries “layoff”, so Adam will again call & cue the dance. Aren’t we lucky that he does both equally well.



October thru May we dance the first Saturday in Plains at the Sr. Ctr. – 2nd Saturday June & September at the Sr. Ctr & 2nd weekend of August is our campout in Ronan at the Diamond S - except for special circumstances. The Sr. Ctr is behind the VFW (which is clearly seen from the main street). It is on the block behind it & facing the same direction – so come & join us.

Any questions call Darlene at 826-8951.